



DETROIT DISTRICT  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
BOX 1027  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231-1027

## **MARCH 2008 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Following its normal seasonal cycle, Lake Superior's water level continued dropping in March. Its average water level in March was 600.3 feet, about 2 inches lower than its February average level. Lake Superior was 6 inches higher than it was in March 2007, but was 11 inches lower than its Monthly Long-Term Average (LTA). In addition, Lake Superior was 9 inches below chart datum in March. Precipitation within the Lake Superior basin was about two-thirds of the average precipitation in March, making March the third straight month in which precipitation was lower than average. Precipitation within the basin over the past year, however, has been near average. Lake Superior's outflow was lower than its monthly average. Also, evaporation from the lake was about 40% above average. Lake Superior is projected to begin rising this month, and will continue to rise through September, reaching its chart datum in June. It is forecasted to be 8 to 17 inches above last year's levels, and be 8 to 11 inches below its LTA through September.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

The level of Lake Michigan-Huron slightly rose in March. Its mean water level in March was about an inch higher than last month's, but was 5 inches below its level of a year ago. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received near average precipitation in March, and precipitation has been average over the past year. As in February, outflow from the lake was below average for March. Lake Michigan-Huron's average water level of 576.6 feet was about 21 inches below its LTA, and 9 inches below its chart datum in March. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to continue to rise into August, and will surpass its chart datum in May. It is projected to be 18 to 21 inches below its LTA, and be within plus or minus 2 inches of last year's levels over the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair continued its seasonal rise during March, although it greatly fluctuated at times. Its average water level of 576.8 feet was an inch higher than both its March 2007 mean water level and its March LTA. The Lake St. Clair basin received precipitation in March that was about 25% higher than average. Its inflow was below normal, and its outflow through the Detroit River was above average. Furthermore, evaporation from the lake was below average in March. Lake St. Clair is predicted to continue rising through May. It is projected to be near the same level as it was last year, and be 4 to 11 inches lower than its LTA, during the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie continued to rise steadily in March. As in February, the Lake Erie basin experienced a high amount of precipitation in March, about 50% higher than the monthly average. Lake Erie's mean March level of 573.8 feet was the same as it was last March. In addition, it was 8 inches above its LTA, and about 2.5 feet above its chart datum. Moreover, its outflow through the Niagara River was slightly higher than normal. Evaporation from the lake was close to average. Lake Erie is predicted to continue to rise during the next few months and reach its seasonal peak in April. It is forecasted to be near its level of a year ago over the next 6 months.

### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario's water level continued to rise last month. Its mean level for the month was 5 inches higher than February's. Lake Ontario had reached its level of a year ago by the end of March and its monthly mean level was about 8 inches above its LTA. Similar to Lake Erie, precipitation in the lake basin was about 50% higher than the March monthly average. In addition, its outflow through the St. Lawrence River was slightly above average. Lake Ontario is projected to continue rising and reach its seasonal peak in May. It is projected to be 4 to 8 inches above last year's level and be 3 to 5 inches above its LTA through July. By August, its level will fall to be near last year's level and its LTA.